

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page <sup>8</sup>~~7~~, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 3 which begins "Fig. 1", with the following amended paragraph, in which deletions are indicated by strikeout, and insertions indicated by underlining:

A1 -- ~~Fig. 1.~~ The figure is a schematic drawing of an on-line auction system in accordance with the invention.--